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Week 2: Doing Business while Palestinian

WEEK
02

JAN. 8
TO
JAN. 14

DOING BUSINESS WHILE PALESTINIAN

Roughly 127,000 Palestinians work inside Israel or in illegal Jewish settlements.

The Israeli army and settlers have destroyed countless acres of agricultural land, including ancient olive orchards.

Gaza's economy actually shrank by 8% in 2018, while the West Bank only saw 2% growth.

The movement of manufactured goods and agricultural products to market is subject to the whims of Israel, which often leads to unwarranted delays, increased costs, wasted produce, and lower profits.

Source: IMEU

<http://kuminow.com/DoingBusiness>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

Welcome to week 2 of Kumi Now! This week we focus on the challenges and injustices faced when trying to do business as a Palestinian. But first, we'd like to start teasing what we have planned for 2022. We are currently planning to bring you two alternating webinar/video series this year. One series will focus on solving the political problems of occupation while the other will highlight Palestinian innovators, artists, and leaders.

We plan to start these series on February 1st. So mark your calendar! We'll be providing more informaton in the coming weeks.

Now let's move on to this week's Kumi Now entry and Kumi Action:

This Week's Kumi Now Entry

Please note: To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Saturday, and this newsletter should go out the same day.

Sharing and publicizing: The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

Kumi Week #2: Doing Business while Palestinian

Week 2 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). To participate in the global market, governments must allow their citizens to control resources and make decisions about what to produce. The government then needs to ensure that the goods produced by its citizens can be exported and sold abroad. On both these points, Palestinians face substantial challenges, for it is not their government, the Palestinian Authority, that decides how many of the resources of the land are used, nor is it their government that can control how goods are exported, and what trade deals are made around the country. This week we look at hardships faced by Palestinians trying to engage in business and trade, but with the deck stacked against them.

You can watch **Sam Bahour**, an American businessman and entrepreneur, and **Nisreen Musleh**, founder and Managing Director of RITAJ Managerial Solutions in Ramallah, explain these difficulties as part of our previous Kumi Now Online Gathering. [This link](#) should take you directly to the 22 minute mark, where they start their presentations.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story about Taybeh Beer. And here are a few more facts for you:

Just the facts...

Roughly 127,000 Palestinians work inside Israel or in illegal Jewish settlements.

Gaza's economy actually shrank by 8% in 2018, while the West Bank only saw 2% growth.

Olive oil and tropical fruits make up the majority of Palestine's exports.

Palestine has no airport. The site of the former Jerusalem International Airport is now being used to expand Israeli settlements.

Ports and crossings have limited hours, no refrigeration facilities, no Palestinian agents, out-dated infrastructure, and onerous packing restrictions.

Sources: IMEU, Human Rights Watch, UNCTAD

Outgoing goods from Gaza averaged 201 truckloads/month in 2018, less than 20% of the 1,064 truckloads/month prior to the 2007 tightening of exports by Israel.

Palestinian businesses rely on the Israeli ports of Haifa and Ashdod to export goods.

75% of Palestinian goods bound for outside Israel and Palestine go through these Israeli-controlled ports.

The King Hussein Bridge crossing into Jordan is controlled by Israeli forces.

The movement of manufactured goods and agricultural products to market is subject to the whims of Israel, which often leads to unwarranted delays, increased costs, wasted produce, and lower profits.

<http://kuminow.com/DoingBusiness>



Understanding Doing Business while Palestinian: Just the Facts...

- Roughly 127,000 Palestinians work inside Israel or in illegal Jewish settlements.
- Gaza's economy actually shrank by 8% in 2018, while the West Bank only saw 2% growth.
- Olive oil and tropical fruits make up the majority of Palestine's exports.

- Palestine has no airport. The site of the former Jerusalem International Airport is [now being used to expand Israeli settlements](#).
- Ports and crossings have limited hours, no refrigeration facilities, no Palestinian agents, out-dated infrastructure, and onerous packing restrictions.
- Outgoing goods from Gaza averaged 201 truckloads/month in 2018, less than 20% of the 1,064 truckloads/month prior to the 2007 tightening of exports by Israel.
- Palestinian businesses rely on the Israeli ports of Haifa and Ashdod to export goods.
- 75% of Palestinian goods bound for outside Israel and Palestine go through these Israeli-controlled ports.
- The King Hussein Bridge crossing into Jordan is controlled by Israeli forces.
- The movement of manufactured goods and agricultural products to market is subject to the whims of Israel, which often leads to unwarranted delays, increased costs, wasted produce, and lower profits.

This week's Just the Facts comes from:

- **IMEU's** ["Fact Sheet: Palestine's Occupied Economy"](#)
- **UNCTAD's** ["Trade Facilitation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Restrictions and Limitations"](#)
- **Human Rights Watch's** [country report on Israel and Palestine](#).

Learning More

You can watch our [Kumi Now Online Gathering](#) and you can also check out the EU's [page regarding Palestinian trade](#). And we have a [playlist of related videos on YouTube](#).

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

Kumi Action

We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below on [YouTube](#).



In our Kumi Action this week we look to assist Palestinian businesses and brands by publicizing their goods or buying something ourselves (or sharing what you bought or received for Christmas!).

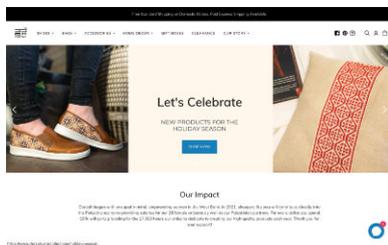
The keffiyeh is a symbol of Palestinian resistance and solidarity. And yet, for five decades the only producer of keffiyehs in Palestine has been Hirbawi. You can take a look inside their factory [in this short video](#). Due to the complications posed by checkpoints and other Israeli restrictions and the production of cheaper keffiyehs made outside of Palestine, Palestinian-made keffiyehs are at risk of disappearing. Order your keffiyeh today from Hirbawi in Hebron. For more information visit [their website](#).

Don't want a keffiyeh? You can buy olive oil and other goods from [Zaytoun](#), find your local distributor of [Taybeh beer](#) (or encourage a local shop to carry it), or buy just about anything from [Shop Palestine](#), which is run by the Middle East Children's Alliance. And through the week we will share other ways to buy Palestinian-made goods. So be sure to check our social media accounts and our [Shop Palestinian guide on the website](#).

Post a photo of your Palestinian product on social media, including a message such as "I'm supporting Palestine by purchasing Palestinian products. You can too!" Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi1.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Darzah

Darzah is a Palestinian non-profit that we recently learned about. It wasn't on our Shop Palestinian guide before, so we thought we should highlight it here. Darzah sells fair trade, hand-stitched shoes, bags, accessories, and home decor items, all made by Palestinian women in the West Bank. And they ship worldwide! According to the website:

"Darzah began with one goal in mind, empowering women in the West Bank. In 2021, shoppers like you will contribute directly into the Palestine economy providing salaries for our 26 female artisans as well as our Palestinian partners. For every dollar you spend, 80% will go to providing for the 17,000 hours our artisans dedicate to creating our high quality products each year."

You can shop on Darzah's [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up for the rest of January so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:



January 19: Week 3 - Building Permit Discrimination

[Read the full Building Permit Discrimination entry online.](#)

As we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, another injustice that we need to address is how Palestinians in the West Bank have been systematically denied their rights to improve and build upon their land.

For our Kumi Action we will be participating in and publicizing Tent of Nation's Sponsor a Tree program.



January 26: Week 4 - Jerusalem

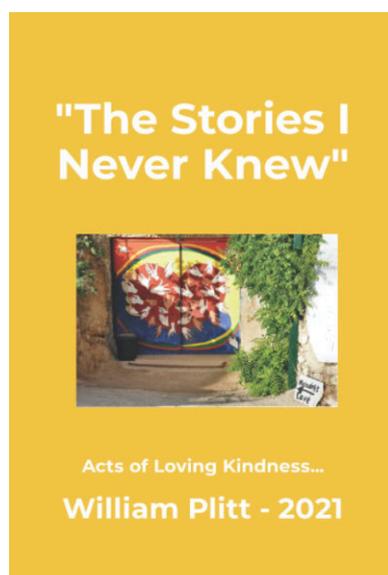
[Read the full Jerusalem entry online.](#)

The Israeli military occupied Jerusalem in 1967. Yet Israel started its efforts to claim Jerusalem as its alone, regardless of the wishes of the United Nations and the claims of Palestinians, years earlier on January 23, 1950, when the Knesset declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

Our Kumi Action will be our first letter writing campaign of the year, identifying new audiences to educate about Jerusalem and finding creative ways to do so.

You Should Watch or Read

One (or maybe two) recent or not-so-recent film, book, video, article, or other piece of art that you should consider reading or watching this week. Have a recommendation? Let us know.



“The Stories I Never Knew” by William Plitt

A new book on the Tent of Nations has been published. **“The Stories I Never Knew” - Acts of Loving Kindness...** was written by **William Plitt** and tells the story of the Nassar family and their belief in refusing to be enemies.

At the moment it appears to only be widely available on [Amazon](#), but keep an eye on [Friends of Tent of Nations North America](#), as William Plitt is the founder of **FOTONNA**.

What's Next

Next Saturday we address the injustice of [Building Permit Discrimination](#). And remember, if you have any feedback at all please email us at kumi@kuminow.com or fill out the [feedback form](#).

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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